

Currently, the National Cancer Institute spends less than 4 percent of its budget on pediatric cancer. An extra \$10 million would boost that percentage and help our effort to get to the bottom of this deadly problem. It would give hope to those in Clyde, OH, and northwest Ohio and across my State and across this great country who have seen cancer's destruction firsthand.

I had a chance to meet with Alexa's family just a few days after their daughter passed away. You can imagine, it was a very emotional time for them and for their neighbors and for their friends at church and for their friends throughout Clyde and that part of the State. But even in their state of mourning, Alexa's mom and dad stressed the importance of making sure other families don't have to go through the same thing. I think our colleagues couldn't agree more.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2918, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 2918, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same. Signed by all the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of Thursday, September 24, 2009.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that upon disposition of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2918, the Senate then proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 191, a correcting resolution; that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to present the conference report on H.R. 2918, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2010.

I will start by thanking the ranking member of the subcommittee, Senator MURKOWSKI, for her help throughout the process of completing the bill. We worked very well together, and the result is a true bipartisan product.

I also thank Chairman INOUE and Vice-Chairman COCHRAN for their support and direction this year as well.

At the request of the full committee, a clean, 1-month continuing resolution has been attached to this conference report.

I believe the bill we have before us today is a good one. This bill will allow the legislative branch to continue to operate and move forward during the next year.

When Senator MURKOWSKI and I began our hearings this year, we both agreed we should lead by example in the legislative branch—being good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. Fiscal year 2010 would be a year of "must haves" versus a year of "nice to haves." With one notable, important, and understandable exception, I think we have been successful.

The final conference report contains \$50 million for the renovation of the Cannon House Office Building. The conferees included this funding at the request of the House. As a matter of comity, the House and Senate defer to the other body on funding decisions related to their side of the Chamber. The \$50 million for the Cannon Building Historical Fund accounts for most of the new overall spending above the cost-of-living increases in our bill.

The conference report before us today totals \$4.65 billion, which is \$156 million, or 3.5 percent, over fiscal year 2009, \$386 million below the budget request.

The bill provides \$926 million for the operations of the Senate, which is \$31 million, or 3.4 percent, above fiscal year 2009, and \$83 million below the request. I am happy to say we were able to reduce the Senate funding by \$8 million from the Senate-passed bill. In addition, \$1.37 billion is included for the operations of the House in fiscal year 2010.

The bill also provides \$328 million for the Capitol Police, which is \$22 million, or 7 percent, above fiscal year 2009. This amount fully funds the current onboard strength of 1,799 officers and provides for an additional five civilian employees to assist with the implementation of the radio project. Congress made the decision earlier this year to move forward with this long-overdue project. So now it is critical that the Capitol Police has the personnel it needs to bring this project in successfully—on time and on budget. No excuses.

The Library of Congress is funded at \$643 million, an increase of \$36 million, or 6 percent, above current year, including full funding requested for the Library's information technology upgrades, which is a top priority of Dr. Billington.

The conference agreement includes \$602 million for the Architect of the

Capitol. Setting aside the \$50 million for the renovation of the Cannon House Building, this mark represents a \$22 million, or 4 percent, overall increase for the Architect of the Capitol. The bill includes a very good balance of energy reduction, deferred facilities maintenance, and code compliance projects within the funding provided.

The Government Accountability Office is funded at \$557 million, an increase of \$26 million, or 5 percent, above fiscal year 2009. This funding supports additional staff to assist GAO in carrying out its vital role in the oversight of the Federal Government.

The Government Printing Office is funded at \$147 million, an increase of \$7 million, or 5 percent, above current year. This increase provides funding for several of GPO's high-priority information technology projects and much needed repairs to the elevator system of the GPO building.

The conferees included \$45 million for the Congressional Budget Office, which is an increase of \$1 million above fiscal year 2009. This will provide CBO with the support it needs to fulfill its mission serving Congress.

The Office of Compliance is funded at \$4.4 million, which is \$305,000, or 7 percent, over current year.

Finally, the conference report includes \$12 million for the Open World Leadership Fund. This represents a decrease of \$2 million below current year and \$2.5 million below the Senate-passed fiscal year 2010 level.

Mr. President, in closing, I thank the staff members who have assisted us throughout this process. First, from Senator MURKOWSKI's staff, I thank Carrie Apostolou and Sarah Wilson for their hard work on this bill. From my staff, I thank Nancy Olkewicz, Kate Howard, and Teri Curtin for their assistance in producing this important legislation.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator in Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise to support the Legislative Branch conference report, which includes a continuing resolution allowing the government to maintain normal operations until October 31, 2009.

I thank Chairman NELSON and Ranking Member MURKOWSKI for their hard work on this bill. I believe the final product before us is fiscally responsible legislation that meets the essential needs of both the House and Senate. I applaud their efforts to urge its adoption by the Senate.

With regard to the continuing resolution, I note that today is September 30, the last day of the fiscal year. With our men and women in uniform fighting on two fronts, and with our economy at a critical stage in its recovery from the worst recession we have faced in several generations, it is inconceivable that we would allow for any disruption of the essential services provided by the Federal Government. We simply